

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT OUT BY THE WAYSIDE

Early and careful selection of seed corn will easily increase the prospective yields for next year five bushels per acre.

While grass is necessary to a fowl's proper condition, it is not fair to expect a hen to live on grass alone.

In buying a farm, select good land, even if you cannot afford to buy more than twenty acres.

Backyard poultry-raising is no longer an experiment. Its success has been demonstrated time and again; in fact, it is carried on in many climates and under various conditions, and its popularity has just fairly started.

Fruit growers who have to employ pickers cannot be too careful in selecting their help. Do not tolerate careless, indifferent pickers. There are plenty who really enjoy this kind of work.

The determining factor in the yield of a good variety of corn is not the size of the ear, but rather the strength of the whole plant and the percentage of stand secured.

It is said that 90 per cent of the normal bird life of this country already has been destroyed, and much of the other 10 per cent will go in the next five years unless strong measures are employed to stop the slaughter.

Early maturity of the lamb is where the big profit comes in raising them for the market. It's another case of "the early bird catches the worm."

The better you seed wheat, the better your crop next year. It is a great mistake to sow small, shrunken or otherwise defective seed.

Young clover should never be pastured, as the tramping of the cattle will compact the soil so hard as to kill out most of the plant.

Some of the things that cause the failure of potato hills are poor soil, improper preparation, poor seed, irregular planting, poor cultivation, bugs, diseases and poor weather. Many of these conditions are controllable; all of them may be influenced by proper methods of culture.

BAD INSECTS IN BIN AND GRANARY

Professor George A. Dean writes: Of the twelve or thirteen species of beetles attacking grain, not more than five or six are commonly found at work in the farmers' bins. To these may be added four species of small moths, of which the Anthonomus grain moth is the most serious pest attacking ripened corn and the meal moth and the Mediterranean flour moth the serious ones in meal, bran, or any of the ground grain products. The farmer applies the term "weevil" to all of these insects. The measures to be employed in the control of these insects are both preventive and insecticidal.

As a preventive measure, all the old grain should, before the new crop is stored, be removed and the floors, walls and ceilings of the bins thoroughly cleaned. If the granary has been infested, it should be fumigated. Cleanliness is very important in preventing injury by these insects. Dust, dirt, rubbish, refuse grain, flour and meal serve as breeding places. Frequent agitation and turning of the grain will destroy many of these insects, because they are unable to free themselves from a mass of it and perish in the attempt.

Fortunately, matters little what species may be causing the trouble, for all succumb to the same treatment. The simplest, most effective and inexpensive remedy for all insects infesting the farmer's grain stored in tight bins is careful fumigation with carbon bisulphide.

If the building is reasonably tight, one pound of carbon bisulphide is sufficient for every 700 cubic feet of space, or one pound for every 100 bushels of grain.

The building and bins must be made as nearly airtight as possible in order that the vapor may remain in all parts of the space after fumigation for the required time. The vapor must enter all cracks and crevices by diffusion. The doors and windows should be arranged so they can be opened from the outside when fumigation is completed. Care should be taken to have everything ready and in its place, so that after the first vessel has received its liquid it will be unnecessary to stop when there is anything. Everything should be done to avoid unnecessary delays and to facilitate the rapid evaporation of the liquid.

The liquid should be placed in shallow pans or dishes as high as possible in the bins or building, since the vapor is heavier than air and settles to the lower parts. It should be well distributed, having not more than a half pound in a place.

If a building of more than one floor is to be fumigated, the operator should begin on the first floor and work upward, and after placing the liquid in the second story, leave the building through a window that he can close after him. If impossible to get out from the upper story, the carbon bisulphide should first be distributed there, working downward as rapidly as possible to avoid the settling vapor.

The bins or building should be allowed to fumigate from twenty-four to thirty-six hours. Doors and windows should be opened wide and the building or bins aired thoroughly one or two hours before entering.

The vapor of this liquid is highly inflammable and explosive. No fire or light of any sort should be allowed about the building while the fumigation is in progress. The application should always be made in daylight, for artificial light of any kind is dangerous. Electric lights must not be used, since when turning them on or off there is always danger of producing a spark. Nor is it safe to have heat of any kind in the building while the fumigation is in progress.

A Bran Mash.

A bran mash, once a week, is a renovation for the driving horse. Two parts of bran and one part of water, with a quantity of wheat bran, scalded about midday and then covered with a blanket or cloth, to keep in the steam, add a pinch of salt and feed at night. Give no other grain with this mash, but, of course, the regulation ration of hay. This once-a-week mash, given preferably Saturday night, will do your driving or riding horse all the good in the world. The work stock will also appreciate the mash, too.

The Rope Knotter.

Every stockman knows how inconvenient a rope knot is. It can be made. New rope may be made as pliable as old by boiling it for two hours in water. Then hang it in a warm room and let it dry thoroughly.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

INJURIOUS PLANT DISEASES

That crown gall and hairy root are serious diseases cannot be doubted. That they may be much more serious in some localities than on others, is equally true. In some sections it may be said that they are most injurious on cane fruits, especially red raspberries. In other parts of the country they frequently prove very injurious to peach.



Crown Gall on Cherry.

cherry and sometimes to apple trees.

Certain varieties of grapes and berries are also susceptible than others. The disease is not necessarily fatal, but diseased trees are sometimes more or less stunted, and sometimes die from the effects of this disease. The root system of many varieties will be imperfect and the trees can be readily blown out by storms, and cannot produce the maximum crop of fruit.

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GENERAL INFORMATION THROUGH QUESTION BOX

The Orchard.

R. L. D. Bedford County: The orchard must have nitrogen and a good way to supply this is to sow a catch or cover crop at the last cultivation—say oats or crimson clover, or both.

Whipped Cream. When the cream is too thin to whip add the unbeaten white of an egg. You will then have no trouble whipping the cream.

By the Carload. D. H. G. Albemarle County: A carload of lambs weighs about 15,000 pounds. It is the custom of the railroads to charge for a minimum of 20,000 pounds, and they can give you a plausible reason for it, but your road is trying to encourage sheep-raising, and it is likely that if you will confer with the proper officer or agent you can get this apparent injustice adjusted.

Lockjaw. F. M. H. Orange County: For lockjaw in a beast—or a man either as for that matter—Dr. Gray, a famous veterinarian, says give the half of a 5-cent package of smoking tobacco in a gallon of hot water. Cool and inject per rectum.

Winter Food for Chickens. J. B. B. Halifax County: What is considered a good food (green) for poultry for the winter months? The following green foods have proven practical for winter feeding: cabbage, clover, alfalfa, mangels, sprouted oats, turnips and pumpkins.

As to Hen's Ages. Mrs. L. Charlotte County: Is it ad-

PROFITABLE FLOCK OF SHEEP

The small farmer should always have a flock of sheep on hand, as these animals are one of the most profitable investments that he can make.

The following is an account of the proceeds derived from a flock of thirty-five grade Shropshire ewes in one season in Virginia:

This flock received no special attention, so far as feed and care were concerned, although, of course, at lambing time they were well looked after. The ewes that did not take to their lambs naturally were induced to nurse them if possible, if not, then these neglected lambs were raised on the bottle, but in the entire flock of thirty-five lambs there were only two that had to be raised by hand.

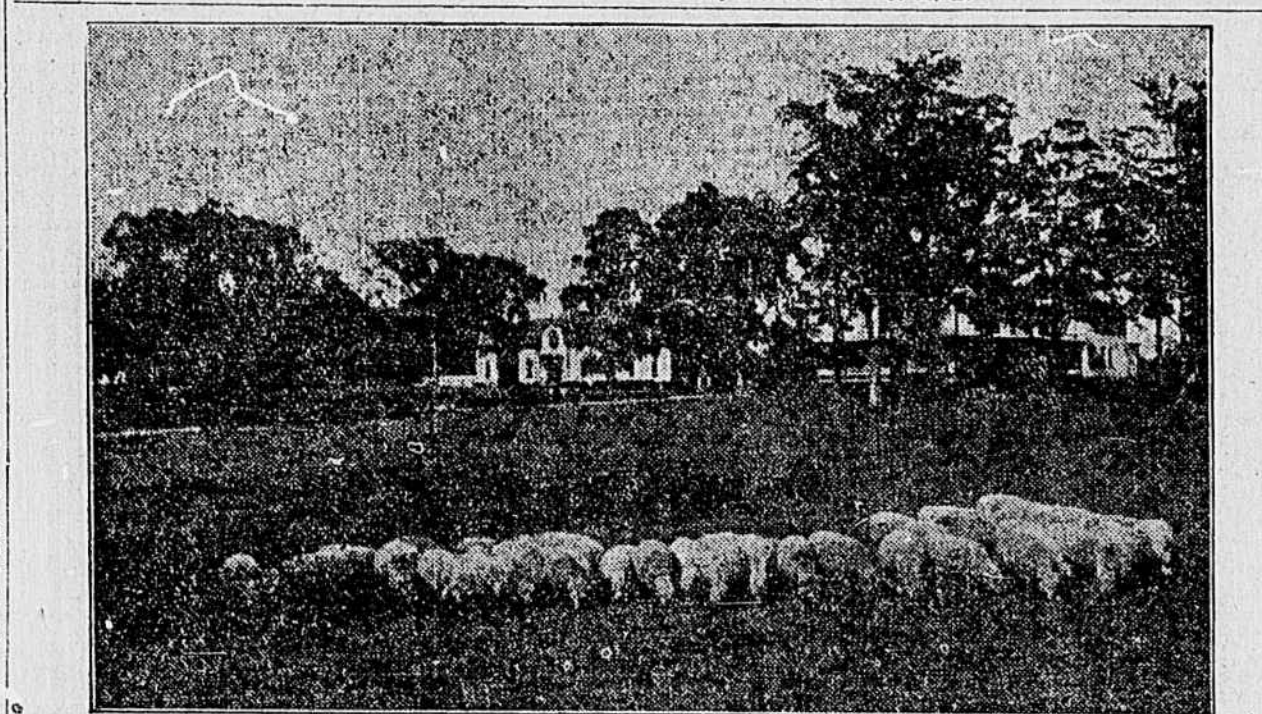
The owner of this flock tells me that his thirty-five lambs netted him \$6.50 each on the farm, that the wool from the thirty-five ewes and one buck sheared an average of six pounds each, and netted 30 cents the pound.

This makes thirty-six lambs at \$6.50 the head, \$234; 216 pounds of wool at 30 cents the pound, \$64.80; total, \$298.80. These sheep were allowed the run of fields that had good grazing on them the major part of the year, and during the winter season when the weather was very severe the little flock was given a ration of hay, but they were never given any grain.

When the snow was on the ground or the nights were very cold they were put up in the hay barn, and just fed hay, a mixture of timothy, grass and clover.

I thought that there might be many farmers considering the purchase of a small flock, so give this illustration of what can be done with a few well-bred sheep at a minimum expense, so far as feed and attention are concerned.

—J. M. B.



A Small But Excellent Flock of Pure-Bred Virginia Sheep, Showing a Marked Degree of Uniformity.

Certain varieties when affected will produce a much smaller crop than healthy trees. Such trees will occasionally produce good crops, but do not thrive and produce as well as healthy trees under the same treatment.

"STAGHEAD" OF SHADE AND FRUIT TREES

Very frequently apple trees and some varieties of shade trees are seen with the topmost branches dead and remaining as dry sticks like antlers projecting above the foliage. This condition may be due to various unfavorable conditions, but it is chiefly encountered with old trees which have long remained unsprayed, unpruned, uncultivated and unfertilized. This



Elm Tree Slowly Dying, With Staghead Effect. Note Dead, Stubby Branches at the Top.

allows opportunity for wood destroying fungi to gain an entrance. Once started, their growth will eventually destroy the whole tree. Severe heading back and clearing out of the dead and fungus infested wood followed by cultivation and fertilization should be resorted to. In some instances it may be necessary to top-graft to remove the head of the tree. The full results of such treatment do not show the first year. Great care should be taken not to leave wounds through which the spores of fungi can gain an entrance to cause decay.

During the past few years a large number of shade trees in the North-eastern part of the United States, and also the Middle States have been affected with staghead. The trouble appears to have come chiefly from the root system, but exactly what causes it is not definitely known at the present time.

There are many varieties of shade trees affected in this way, and this means their ultimate destruction, since those that do not die outright will never recover their tops and are therefore worthless as specimens of shade trees. This dying back is particularly noticeable on elms.

A characteristic feature of trees affected with staghead, more conspicuous in slowly dying trees, may be seen in the increase of the heartwood and decrease of the sapwood. The wood of the dying trees is very brittle, and the limbs and branches fall off easily.

Old trees reaching the end of their grand period of growth, usually show the same characteristic, and for this reason they, too, become dangerous. Many of the limbs and branches fall, and the trees are a constant menace to life and property. Wind and where the atmosphere is unusually quiet, especially during October and November, after the leaves have fallen.

visible to keep hens longer than two years? From the standpoint of production it is not considered profitable to keep for her first second year; but if the hen is valuable as a brooder, she may be kept three or four years. You must judge by local conditions.

Why Pastures Fail.

Many pastures fail in midsummer because they are not made right. Too few grasses and clovers are employed in the mixture. In many sections, timothy is the only grass used. This should be supplemented with clovers that mature earlier and again come on later in the season than timothy. Some of the other grasses with different habits of growth and seasons of maturing should also be used in the mixture, thus securing with the clover not only more pasture, but a far better quality of pasture.

Training the Colt.

Commence handling the colt when he is no more than a week old. Be kind and gentle with him. When hitching up for the first time, don't hitch to anything that he can turn over, or that will make a racket and scare him.

The essential factors in training are good care, daily handling, kindness and patience. Don't wait until he is two or three years old before you begin to train him, for then it is a big task. One is apt to get in a hurry to get the colt doing something and try and expect to train him in a very short time.

Catch the Millers.

I have found a new and better way than to spray fruit trees—catch the winged insects. About sunset when the blossoms are falling, and again, two weeks later, I paint any old roof with a good brand of roof coating, or coal tar paint, and set a bright lantern in the middle of the roof all night. The curculio millers will come to see the light and fall into the coal tar paint, stick fast and die. In this way I have caught brown millers, white millers, lots of them and beetle bugs. They nearly covered the roof the first night and I got a lot every night.

Set an open torch light or wood fire in the cabbage patch all night, all summer and the cabbage millers will fly into it and you will have no worms on your cabbage—Irving Taber, Ohio, in Green's Fruit Grower.

Small Flocks Pay.

For the encouragement of the Virginia farmer who thinks keeping sheep would be a fine thing if he could carry on an extensive business, as is done on the big western ranches, we quote a Texas wool buyer, who says that he would be a great thing for the country if a farmer owned a small flock of sheep, where there are no ranches near, he produces being grown and the farmers who keep small flocks. I have been often told by such farmers that it costs practically nothing to keep sheep on a farm. They require very little feed, and they are easy to handle and at the same time they enrich the land. I find that the owners of small flocks, as a rule, keep a better grade of sheep and the animals are healthier than those of the large ranchmen, the wools from the farms always classing higher than ranch wools.

The Weakens Rope.

Rope is often tarred to protect it from the weather. This is somewhat doubtful practice as the acid in the tar produces the rope to such an extent that engineers estimate tarred rope to be only two-thirds as strong as clean, new rope.

No kind of oil or other preparation has so far been found that will not injure the rope, except tallow. Tallow and graphite are used in making transmission rope, and for lubricating it when in use.

SEEDING MEADOWS AND PASTURES

There is probably no agricultural practice regarding which there is greater difference of opinion among farmers than that of the methods of seeding meadows and pastures. This is largely due to the fact that a stand of either clover or grass is dependent on a good brand of seed, the weather conditions, soil and quality of seed.

The most common meadow mixture



Nodules on Clover Seedling Roots.

is that of red clover and timothy. Where these are sown together it is customary to sow the timothy in the fall and the clover the following spring, although frequently they are sown together in the spring, and occasionally, in Southern sections, in the fall.

The term, "nurse crop," is applied to the small crop with which clovers and grasses are frequently sown. Rye, wheat and oats are commonly used for this purpose, and are ranked for their efficiency in the order given. The function of the nurse crop is not to direct the clover and grasses, as may be supposed, but rather to keep down the growth of wild grasses and weeds which may crowd out and destroy the young plants. Where weeds do not bother the clover and grass, the nurse crop is usually almost pure clover, the first crop is usually almost pure clover, the second about an equal mixture of clover and timothy, and if left a third year, the crop will be almost pure timothy. Where sown alone, either in fall or spring, a fair crop of hay, although frequently more or less weedy, may be obtained the first year.

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What is a real farmer? We use this expression, "a real farmer," often, and a farmer is a person who makes his money by the land he owns and who lives on the land he works, and who follows farming as a profession, or at least claims to be a farmer. The real farmer is a sentimental one, but economic real farmers live by work alone on the land.

BREADSTUFF SALES HAVE BANNER PERIOD

Between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 Bushels Taken in North America in Past Six Days.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHICAGO, October 25.—The banner period in the sales of breadstuffs for export was seen last week. It was variously estimated that between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 bushels were taken in North America in the six days closing on Saturday.

A large trade was done by Chicago houses via Gulf ports, and they also made big sales via Atlantic ports, as well as considerable wheat which is to go out via Canada. The business was merely a matter of the supplies available. Every importing country abroad bought freely not only of wheat, but of flour as well.

When the fact is considered that importing countries are willing to take wheat and flour, not only for near-by shipment, but for deferred shipment, the urgency of the demand is reflected. Some of the French buyers, who claimed to have enough breadstuffs to last them for a few weeks or possibly a month or more, but this is not borne out by the official orders of some of the countries here on Tuesday morning, a goodly percentage of potato flour or rice flour in the manufacture of their bread—notably Norway and Holland.

It is impossible for Germany to get supplies as easily as France and England are getting them. The ocean lanes are being eagerly watched by Great Britain and France, and it is almost impossible for other warring nations the same to get shipments through at the present time.

Western receipts last week were again liberal at 10,248,000 bushels compared with 11,172,000 bushels the previous week and 5,533,000 bushels for a like period last year.

Speculation in wheat here has been on a fairly liberal scale. The North-west has hedged some wheat here, but as an offset to this selling was the buying of the near-by months against transactions in the cash grain on export account. The business in cash wheat was almost wholly on foreign account, as millers have purchased in a small way only.

A weather market is likely to continue in corn. The old-time bull crowd, made up of some of the nervy speculators from down-State, are the large holders here, and believe much higher prices will be seen because considerable new corn has already been fed and the number of hogs in the interior is quite large. The weekly receipts at primary markets last week were 2,035,000 bushels, compared with 3,877,000 bushels for a like period last year.

Wheat were active on export account, with the movement big, and the demand likely will continue for an indefinite period. Western receipts last week were 9,225,000 bushels, which was 1,000,000 bushels smaller than the previous week, but was 1,300,000 bushels in excess of the corresponding period last year.

The large market is attracting attention, not only of the speculators known as professionals, but of foreigners and packers throughout the country. It is generally believed in Chicago that goodly amounts of lard have been sold here for export, and the opinion is held that the demand for such deliveries will experience more or less trouble in evening up their position without meeting heavy losses.

REVIEW OF COTTON

NEW ORLEANS, October 25.—The price of cotton again dropped to lower levels last week, settling at 45.85 cents at 6 1/2 cents a pound, the lowest of the week, and the lowest in several years, while January contracts at one time stood at 6.95, and closed at 7 cents. In the interior prices at many markets went down about 6 cents, Dallas quoting at that level after the middle of the week.

A factor that contributed not a little to the decline was the refusal of insurance companies to take war risks on cotton shipped in neutral bottoms to neutral ports. England forbade English insurance companies taking such risks, it being understood that the ground for this attitude was the claim that much cotton was finding its way to Germany through neutral countries.

The influence of this stand was to be seen in the week's exports, which were smaller than for the preceding week, the figures being 82,196 bales, against 87,856 last week and 84,583 for the corresponding week last year. Exports

for the season now amount to 397,475 bales, against 2,073,535 bales during the same period last year, and 1,871,375 during the same period two years ago.

The conference this week between leading financiers of the United States and England will be watched by the cotton trade with great interest, because of the growing belief that they will lead to plans that will accomplish the reopening of the cotton future markets.

CASH RESERVE DEFICIT WIPED OUT IN NEW YORK

Gratifying Feature of Week Made Possible, However, Only by Trade Recession.

NEW YORK, October 25.—One of the most gratifying features of the past week in financial circles was the wiping out of the deficit in cash reserves by New York banks and the substitution of an excess amounting to about \$8,400,000. These institutions reported a deficit of almost \$48,000,000 two weeks after the commencement of the European war.

It is clear, however, that it is trade recession that is sending cash into recession in increasing volume. The money market relaxes correspondingly from week to week. Clearing-house certificates and emergency currency are being retired. As yet very moderate investment has been stimulated. Prospect of the Federal reserve policy becoming effective by mid-November promises further large additions to available credits.

A pronounced slump in foreign exchange was a feature of the week. Operations by the bankers' gold pool, which had been in operation since the expected agreement with British Treasury delegates was granted, were jointly effective factors. Severe losses in German marks was supposed to reflect merchandising consignments through indirect channels.

Suggestion of British acceptance of short-term notes from debenture holders with action towards free purchase of the steel trade for the present movement is serving to sustain railroads.

It is not improbable that the plans of the British government for protection of the London Stock Exchange against the expiration of the moratorium on November 4 may decide, to a great extent, the question of an early reopening of the London exchange and our own.

COTTON GOODS MARKETS ARE GENERALLY DULL

NEW YORK, October 25.—Cotton goods markets have been generally dull, and traders do not look for permanent improvement until cotton conditions are more settled. Offers to buy goods for delivery on contract are held up by the inability of mills to hedge on cotton purchases, or to receive assurances of securing cotton at prices demanded by the low bids made for the goods.

Some business has been accepted on heavy goods for long future delivery at prices based on 7-cent cotton, but it has been of a limited character. Duck has been selling more freely for home and foreign consumption. Brown sheetings and gray goods are at very low prices, but are not being purchased well. Prints and colored goods are being held at steady prices through the inability to secure additional supplies of dyestuffs.

Jobbers are not operating for future delivery on many goods, partly because of financial conditions, and, generally, because of uncertainty concerning values. A partial revision has been made on bleached cottons. The irregularity of values continues a marked feature of the cloth markets, and there has been an increasing volume of curtailment reported in manufacturing centres.

Prices are as follows: Print cloths 28-inch, 64x64's, 3 cents; 64x50's, 2 1/2 cents; 38-inch, 64x64's, 3 1/2 cents; brown sheetings, Southern standard, 7 1/2 cents; 38-inch, 9-ounce, 13 1/2 cents; tickings, 8-ounce, 13 cents; standard prints, 6 1/2 cents; staple gingham, 5 1/2 cents; dress gingham, 9 1/2 cents.

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as they will be of having no religion.

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Will make your car look like new. It gives a high-class gloss finish for autos, carriages and buggies, and will last longer and cover much better than ordinary carriage paints.

Always use or specify Sherwin-Williams Paints and Varnishes, if you want to be sure of first-class work.